

**May 2001**



**District of  
Columbia**

**Department  
of Health**

**HEALTH CARE  
LICENSING &  
CUSTOMER SERVICE  
DIVISION**

# **MUNICIPAL ADDICTION COUNSELOR REGULATIONS**

## DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS

### NOTICE OF FINAL RULEMAKING

The Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, pursuant to authority set forth in §§ 904(d) and 302(14) of the District of Columbia Health Occupations Revision Act of 1985, as amended, D.C. Code §§ 2-3309.4(d) and 2-3307.2(14) (1988 and Supp. 1993), and Mayor's Order No. 86-110 (July 18, 1986), hereby gives notice of the adoption of the following new Chapter 73 (Addiction Counselor) of Title 17 DCMR (Business, Occupations and Professions). These rules were published as proposed rules in the D.C. Register on April 22, 1994, at 41 DCR 2248. Comments were received and considered. A minor clarifying change has been made to the text of the proposed rulemaking. These rules establish standards for education and experience needed to qualify as a registered addiction counselor. These rules will be effective upon publication of this notice in the D.C. Register.

## CHAPTER 73 ADDICTION COUNSELOR

### 7300 APPLICABILITY

- 7300.1 This chapter shall apply to applicants for and holders of a registration to practice addiction counseling.
- 7300.2 Sections 4001, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4012, and 4013 of Chapter 40 (Health Occupations: General Rules) of this title shall supplement this chapter.
- 7300.3 Chapter 41 (Administrative Procedures) of this title shall supplement this chapter, with the exception of sections 4101, 4102.1, 4102.3(a), 4113, 4118, 4119, and 4123.
- 7300.4 The term "Board" shall in all instances refer to the Director of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. The Director shall possess all powers and assume all functions assigned to a "Board" under these administrative procedures, as well as the powers and functions retained by the Director.

### 7301 AUTHORIZED PRACTICE

- 7301.1 Any person who is engaged as an addiction counselor in the District of Columbia, shall register as an addiction counselor pursuant to these rules.
- 7301.2 A person practicing as a registered addiction counselor in the District may assist only individuals with addiction-related concerns such as substance abusers and persons affected by problems related to substance abuse, and may provide addiction information to the public.

### 7302 TERMS OF REGISTRATION

- 7302.1 A registration issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of December 31 of each even-numbered year.
- 7302.1 If the Director changes the renewal system pursuant to § 4006.3 of chapter 40 of this title, a registration issued pursuant to this chapter shall expire at 12:00 midnight of the last day of the month of the birth date of the holder of the registration, or other date established by the Director.

### 7303 REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION AS AN ADDICTION COUNSELOR

- 7303.1 The Director shall register an applicant who furnishes proof satisfactory to the Director that the applicant has obtained the equivalent of one (1) year full-time experience, that is, at least fifteen hundred (1,500) hours, providing direct, supervised addiction counseling services to persons with the primary problem of alcoholism or other drug addictions, and has completed a minimum of one hundred thirty-five (135) hours of training or education in the following knowledge and skill areas:
- (a) Pharmacology;
  - (b) Signs and symptoms of alcohol and drug use, dependence, and abuse;

- (c) Legal, ethical, and professional standards;
- (d) Modalities for counseling services and treatment of substance use/abuse;
- (e) Helping relationship/theories and dynamics of counseling;
- (f) Human development/behavior;
- (g) Treatment planning;
- (h) Evaluation and assessment;
- (i) Crisis intervention;
- (j) Working with families;
- (k) Case management and record keeping; and
- (l) Experiential learning situation.

7303.2 The Director shall register an applicant who furnishes proof satisfactory to the Director that the applicant holds a current and valid certificate as an addiction counselor from a regulatory board in another jurisdiction of the United States, the Washington Metropolitan Area Addictions Counselors Credentialing Board, or its successor, the DC Certification Board/Alcohol and Other Drugs of Abuse, or its successor, or the National Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors, or its successor.

## 7399 DEFINITIONS

7399.1 When used in these regulations, the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed:

**Addiction counselor** – a person who possesses and utilizes a unique knowledge and skill base to assist (i) a substance abuser, or (ii) a person or group affected by a problem related to substance abuse, or (iii) the public for whom the prevention of substance abuse is a primary concern. This knowledge and skill base may be attained through a combination of specialized training, education, supervised work experience, and life experience.

**Registered addiction counselor** – a person registered by the Director as meeting standards prescribed in this chapter.

**Supervised addiction counseling services** – experiences during which time a supervisor is available to the person supervised either in person or by a communications device or when a supervisor is discussing or observing the person's practice.